
STATE OF INDIANA

DISTRESSED UNIT APPEAL BOARD



INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER NORTH
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INDIANAPOLIS IN 46204
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Distressed Unit Appeal Board Meeting Memorandum

Thursday, September 20, 2023

Call to Order: A meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (“DUAB” or “Board”) was September 20, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. EST at the Indiana Government Center South Building, Conference Rooms 4 and 5, 302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Members of the Board attending the meeting in person include Chairman Cris Johnston, Tracy Brown, David Holt, Paul Joyce, and Daniel Shackle. Peter Miller, Executive Director, was also in attendance.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order and recognized compliance with the Open Door Law.

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **3 – Approval of Minutes.**

Mr. Joyce made a motion the minutes be approved as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0), Mr. Holt abstained from the vote.

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **4 – Public Comment.**

- Dr. Michaela Spangenberg expressed concerns about academics, community engagement, and a lack of responsiveness from to data.
- Mrs. Lovetta Tindal expressed concerns DUAB meetings not being held in Gary, turnover, possible nepotism, and management salaries.

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **5 – GCSC Operations Update.**

Dr. Mike Raisor provided updates on school board meetings, enrollment, homecoming, Gary pride, transportation, and teacher salary negotiations. Ms. Brown asked if they anticipate an enrollment increase from last year. Mr. Raisor noted that they are still working out the numbers but anticipate being around the fall count.

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **6 – Gary Community School Corporation (“GCSC”) Academic Update.**

Ms. Mavis Snelson presented i-Ready data.

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **7 – GCSC Financial Update.**

Mr. Miller provided the updates.

School Improvement Fund/1065 Claims

Ms. Brown made a motion the docket be approved as presented. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Revision to ESSER Plan

Mr. Shackle made a motion the plan revision be approved as presented. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion.

2024 DLGF Budget

Cender Dalton presented the budget. Mr. Miller asked about the ADM count used and Cender Dalton confirmed that they use a conservative count in their calculations. Mr. Holt requested discussion on the impact of 2023 legislative changes. Mr. Holt asked how many students qualify for free and reduced. Chairman Johnston asked about Common School Fund Loan Payments. Mr. Shackle asked about reserve funds. Mr. Holt asked about fund transfers. Chairman Johnston asked about how the school board will interact with the budgeting process. Mr. Holt commended the team on their work so far. Mr. Shackle stated that his Budget Division Director reviewed the budget and did not have any concerns. Mr. Shackle made a motion the budget be approved as presented. Mr. Holt seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **8 – Authorizations by the DUAB Executive Director.**

Mr. Miller presented the contracts:

- *Renaissance* – MTSS Software
- *Discovery Education* – Science & Social Studies Curriculum

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **9 – Consideration of GCSC Contractual Obligations.**

Ms. Snelson presented the contract. Ms. Brown made a motion the contract be approved as presented. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **10 – Consideration of GCSC Contractual Obligations.**

Mr. Miller provided context. Chairman Johnston asked a clarifying question. Mr. Holt made a motion the benchmark payments be approved as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Chairman Johnston asked if there was any new business to come before the Board and seeing none adjourned the meeting.